

House Bill 1414 Section 10.2 (a) and (b) directed the Department of Health and Human services to answer a series of questions and make recommendations about the presence of persons with mental illness in NC LTC facilities.

DHHS convened a study group made up of long-term care provider associations, advocacy organizations and state government staff.

Issues addressed by the Study Group:

- Health and safety
- Screening and disclosure
- Training of staff
- Services to residents with mental illness

Long Term Care Facilities

- Nursing Facilities provide care for persons who have health conditions for which medical and nursing care is indicated.
- Adult Care Homes provide residential care for older adults or adults with disabilities whose primary need is a home with the shelter and personal care their age and disability requires.

- Over 40% of the adult care home population carries an active diagnosis of mental illness

(Adult Care Home Mental Health Needs Assessment Report of Findings, First Health, July 15, 2004)

- Over 40% of the nursing facility population has a psychiatric or mood disorder diagnosis.

(Based on a limited sample study of nursing facility residents done as part of the Adult Care Home Cost Modeling Report, Myers and Stauffer 2003)

Mental Illness – an illness which lessens the capacity of the individual to use self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of his affairs and social relations so as it make it necessary or advisable to be under treatment, care, supervision, guidance or control.

NC General Statutes 122C-3(21)

#1. Expansion of mental health specialty teams to provide training, technical assistance and linkage to local mental health services for long term care facilities.

FY 05-06 funding increased by 20% to expand capacity for training and consultation to long term care facilities.

January 2007, funding for teams to add an additional position to focus on needs related to younger adults in long term care.

#2 Design and Implementation of an automated screening, assessment and care planning system to be used prior to admission to long term care services

DMA is currently working on an integrated, web-based system with the capacity to identify individualized needs for all residents including persons with mental illness prior to admission, Operational in 2007.

#3 Conduct a study to inform the development of a continuum of residential services to meet the varied needs of persons with mental illnesses.

- Study would quantify the need, in terms of projected numbers to be served and the types and designs of alternative residential and treatment settings.
- The scope of this study would include a review of models used in other states, applicable Federal and State policies and regulations, potential funding sources, and development of cost estimates.

DHHS is currently drafting an RFP to conduct the study.

AND

Proceeding with development of new service:
“Transitional Residential Treatment Program” a 24-hour residential treatment and rehabilitation program for adults who have a pattern of difficult behaviors, related to mental illness, which are not easily re-directed and exceed the capability of a traditional community residential setting.